

United States Senate

June 24, 2011

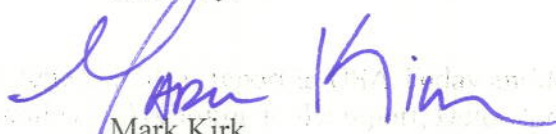
J. Randolph Babbitt
Administrator
Federation Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Babbitt:

I am deeply concerned by the June 23, 2011, report in USA Today entitled "U.S. Jews not able to fly on Delta flights to Saudi Arabia." According to the report, Delta Airlines may have entered into an agreement with Saudi Arabia that prohibits Americans of the Jewish faith from flying solely on the basis of their religion. If true, this policy appears to violate the U.S. Constitution's Equal Protection Clause while undermining the purpose of the Federal Aviation Administration – to promote the safety and expansion of U.S. civil aviation.

I request your investigation into this matter to determine whether Delta Airlines violated U.S. law or regulation and to ensure no U.S. citizen is denied their right to fly solely on the basis of their religion. Since a core mission of the FAA is to promote civil aviation, I would expect the FAA to use its full statutory and regulatory power to ensure that America's civil airways are not restricted for persons regardless of faith.

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk
United States Senator